

Waukegan, IL - Congressman Mark Kirk (R-Highland Park) announced a \$65,000 grant awarded to the Waukegan Fire Department. The grant is awarded under the Department of Homeland Security's Assistance to Firefighters Program. The money will be used to upgrade technology currently used to communicate with hospitals, purchase protective gear for firefighters and to provide bomb training for first responders.

"This grant serves two purposes; protecting the health and safety of our firefighters and upgrading communications technology between hospitals and EMS teams that will help save lives," said Kirk. "I thank the Department of Homeland Security for recognizing the needs of our first responders in Waukegan."

Splash suits used to respond to a hazardous situation, detectors used to detect nerve, blood, blister, and choking agents, and funding for a terrorist bombings awareness training course are some of the projects being pursued with this grant.

The Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program is administered by the Department of Homeland Security's Office for Domestic Preparedness in cooperation with the Department's United States Fire Administration.

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